(d) if so, what are the details thereof stating the results achieved during the last two years; and

(e) if the answer to part (c) above be in the negative whether Government propose to set up a special squad for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) No separate statistics regarding children found begging on station premises and in trains are maintained.

(c) to (e) begging on station premises and in trains is a punishable offence under the Railways Act. It is basically a socio-economic problem. To eradicate menace of begging on stations and in trains, regular and surprise checks/drives are conducted jointly by the Railway Officials, Railway Protection Force and Government Railway Police personnel. The beggars aprehended are dealt with in accordance with the law of the land. During last two years 1,15,663 checks were conducted and 6876 beggars were prosecuted.

Withdrawal of complimentary passes

3016. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that complimentary Railway passes issued to freedom fighters and Ex-MPs are withdrawn temporarily;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that complaint of bogus passes were reaching to Government since long, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have inquired into this fraud;

(e) if so, who are found responsible,

(f) whether Railway personnel are also inplicated in this fraud; and

(g) how long the decision to withhold the travel facility given to complimentary pass holders of above categories would continue?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No complaint has been received about issue of bogus passes to Freedom Fighters and former Members of Parliament.

(d) to (g) Do not arise.

Implementation of Miabhoy Tribunal Recommendation

3017. SHRI JIBON ROY:
SHR M.A. BABY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that even after 24 years of Miabhoy Tribunal recommendation and 21 years of agreement between the AILRSA and Government signed by the then Minister of Labour, in 1973 regarding 10 hours duty from signing on to signing off, for running staff have not been implemented;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the staff are being forced to perform unlimited hours of work;

(c) if so, whether such a state of affairs is not prone to accidents;

(d) if not, what is the actual status;

(e) whether the 10 hours duty schedule has been incorporated in HDER; and

(f) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (d) Following the judgement of Central Administrative Tribunal Ernakulam, delivered on 10.1.92, instructions have already been issued in April, 1992 advising Zonal Railways that "duty at a stretch"

of running staff should not ordinarily exceed 10 hours from departure of the train and overall duty from 'signing on' to 'signing off' should not exceed 12 hours save in exceptional cases like accidents, floods/breaches, agitations, equipment failures etc. These instructions are being followed by Zonal Railways. In view of this, implementation of Miabhoy Tribunal Award or the Agreement with AILRSA pertaining to duty hours of running staff do not arise. In so far as accident proneness is concerned, there are several factors responsible and concerted efforts continue to be made to minimise incidence of accidents.

(e) The schedule of working hours of running staff has been incorporated in the Subsidiary Instructions of HDER.

(f) Does not arise.

Railway Passenger Insurance Scheme

3018. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the features of the railway passenger insurance scheme:

(b) whether this benefit will also be given to those who have already suffered due to injury etc; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) A statement is attached. *(See below)*

(b) and (c) As this scheme has been implemented with effect from 1.8.1994, cases prior to this will not be covered under this scheme.

Statement

Railway Passenger Insurance Scheme

The salient features of the Railway Passengers Insurance Scheme are as under:

1. Under this scheme, Railways will pay compensation for loss of life or injuries to bonafide passengers holding tickets or pass including railwaymen on duty who become victims of untoward incidents' such as terrorist acts, violent attack, robbery, dacoity, rioting, shoot-out or arson by any person in or on any train carrying passengers, or in a waiting hall, cloak room or reservation or booking office or on any platform or in any place within the precincts of a railway station or the accidental falling of any passenger from a train carrying passengers.

2. However, no claim for loss of property shall be entertained on behalf of the claimants.

3. The same scale of compensation will be available under this scheme as is provided in the Railway Accident (Compensation) Rules, 1990. Under these rules the compensation in case of death or permanent disability is Rs. 2 lakhs, and in case of injuries the minimum compensation is Rs. 16,000/-and the maximum is Rs. 1,80,000/-

4. No compensation will, however, be payable in cases of suicide or attempted suicide, self-inflicted injury, his own criminal act or any act committed in a State of intoxication or insanity or natural death or disease or medical or surgical treatment unless such treatment becomes necessary due to injury caused by the said 'untoward incident'.

5. The application for compensation will be adjudicated by Railway Claims Tribunal. Ninteen Benches of this Tribunal have been set up in different parts of the country. The decrees of the Railway Claims Tribunal will be satisfied by the Zonal Railways after following the normal procedure.